The Journey of the Nurse Licensure Compact: The Licensure Solution for Interstate Nursing Practice in the US

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The Need for the Nurse Licensure Compact

- Antiquated 100 yr old system of 1 license for 1 state
- Has not kept pace with technology and mobility
- Expansion of telehealth
- Avoid a federal solution to the problem
- Fix the problem of multiple licenses, duplicative regulation, unlicensed practice

What is the Nurse Licensure Compact?

An interstate licensure compact
- It allows a nurse to have one multistate license (in primary state of residency)
- This permits the nurse to practice in other member states (both physically and via telecommunications) subject to each state's practice laws
Today’s Nurse Licensure Compact

From the Current NLC to the enhanced NLC

The Road from the NLC to the eNLC

Original NLC

NLC

Enhanced NLC

2 states need to transition to enhanced NLC

Needs 25 states enacted to become effective.

NLC Impacts Portability and Access

- Nurses are increasingly MOBILE!
- Remote and rural communities > access to care
- Military spouses who move every two years
- Online distance nursing education
NLC Benefits Telehealth

- Nurses can practice in multiple states with one license
- Increases patient access to care
- Enables care continuity for patients regardless of their location

The Current Status of the enhanced NLC

The Future of the NLC

- Technology and therefore telehealth will continue to grow
- NLC will be adopted in all states that don’t have political impediments; i.e., 85-90%.
- Nurses will voice their opinions in hold-out states
Primary Challenges Faced by States

- Lawmakers lack of understanding of interstate compact law; need for education (technical assistance)
- Rulemaking by the States vs. by the Commission
- New Requirement for Criminal Background Checks
- Lack of Support from Collective Bargaining Units
- Financial

NLC supporters across the U.S.

- Airline Security Transport Nurses Association
- American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing
- American Association of Colleges of Nursing
- American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)
- American Hospital Association
- American Telemedicine association (ATA)
- Association for Professional Access
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Center for Health and E-Health Law
- Commission for Case Management Certification
- Commission on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs (COA)
- Emergency Nurses Association
- Current Health International, Inc.
- Citizen Advocacy Center (CAC)
- Center for Advanced Perioperative Practice
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Thank You!

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